

## small talk



jean gillette

### Too much to do before kids say 'I do'

Both my children have set dates for weddings in the coming year. My tummy already hurts.

I have eight full months until time for Mother-of-the-Groom activity, and 13 months before my daughter's day. That has to be way too soon to panic, and yet I am hyperventilating just a bit.

I thought, back when, that being a parent of the groom would be a piece of cake — set up the rehearsal dinner, pitch in a bit for some other bit of the event, and there you are. But, bless their little hearts; they are being married in Philadelphia.

The rehearsal dinner site has changed twice and required a cash deposit. What does it mean when a restaurant won't take a credit card? It can't be good.

I truly hope the place is still there by next April.

However, working from the West Coast, I need to just trust the bride. Sounds easy, but it's a real challenge for a slightly OCD, marginal control freak like me.

I am the one in our family who always plans things.

So it will be me choosing plane tickets, me making the hotel reservations, me figuring out what every-

TURN TO **SMALL TALK** ON **B15**



Cans wait to be filled at the Pizza Port Brewing Co. in Bressi Ranch. Photo by Ellen Wright

## CRAFT BEER CREATES A BUZZ IN VISTA

By Ellen Wright

VISTA — This past June marked a milestone in American craft breweries — the most in operation since 1873, according to the Brewers Association.

California has the most breweries among them, producing close to 3 million barrels of craft beer a year.

During a time of brewery booms, North County is witnessing a boom of its own, with Vista surpassing Portland, Ore., for the amount of breweries per capita, according to head of Vista Brewers Guild Melody Campbell.

The city is home to 10 breweries, with two set to open by the end of the summer and one by the end of the year.

"It's really great that it's getting to the point where each neighborhood now is developing its own identity as part of the (craft beer) community," said Jill Davidson, sales and brand ambassador for Pizza Port Brewing, which operates a cannery on the outskirts of Vista in Bressi Ranch.

She pointed out that the San Diego craft beer industry has long had roots in North County, including Stone Brewing Co. and Pizza Port Brewing, but the amount of breweries is changing dramatically.

Vista officials made it easier for the small businesses to get started and they worked closely with brewers to find out their needs and what ordinances weren't working.

"They were really gracious and they welcomed us with open arms," said Daniel Love, CEO of Mother Earth Brew Co.

It all started when the CEO of Stone, Greg Koch, was looking to change locations from their San Marcos brewery. While he didn't eventually choose Vista, Stone's move opened the eyes of city officials to the possibilities.

"In working with them we realized it was really kind of a bio-tech company in what they did," said Kevin Ham, economic development director with Vista.

Ham worked closely with Love and other brewers to make Vista the brewing hub that it is today.

"You want to create spaces and places where people want to live and work. The breweries have really added to that environment," said Ham.

The city worked with brewers to start the guild, which meets monthly to discuss issues.

"The reason we created the guild is so we could have a positive relationship with the city and they could get to know us as creating a destination for the city of Vista, which is essentially what we have done," said Campbell.

She said that the guild helped in the beginning, since city officials weren't sure what to expect with tasting

TURN TO **CRAFT BEER** ON **B15**

### Explorers finish strong in regional competition

By Promise Yee

OCEANSIDE — The Oceanside Explorers team did a cracker-jack job during regional competition, which challenged teams in law enforcement response scenarios, target shooting and a mile-long obstacle course.

Dominic La Porta, William Jester, Brannon Adkins, and Jordan Laser represented Oceanside during competition held at the 63-acre Escondido Police Department shooting range June 26 and June 27.

The Oceanside team excelled in the vehicle felony stop scenario in which teams were graded on how they enacted procedures, utilized team members, and kept the situation safe.

"They were given a perfect score and first place," Lt. Leonard Cosby said.

Scenarios also asked Explorers teams to respond to a police officer ambush, bus assault, and domestic violence incident.

Shooting competition tested Explorers mastery of 40-caliber handguns, shotguns, and semi-automatic rifles. Timed drills asked team members to shoot targets at varying distances, up to 100 yards out.

There was also a mile-long team obstacle course to master. Oceanside teamed with Escondido in the competition, which included the challenges of passing water buckets over a six-foot tall fence, bandaging an

TURN TO **EXPLORERS** ON **B15**

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**EXPLORERS**

CONTINUED FROM B1

arm en route, and tire flipping.

There was the added challenge of teammates being blindfolded if they made a mistake along the course. This called for fellow teammates to assist them with the remainder of the challenge.

"This event required excellent teamwork from all of the participants," Cosby said.

The Oceanside Explorers team took third place overall in the two-day competition in which 13 Explorers teams from eight Southern California police agencies participated.

Oceanside also received the Honor Award for most commitment.

"The kids are really sparkplugs," Cosby said. "Sgt. Garcia of the Escondido Police Department said he was really

pleased with the attitude of the kids."

The Oceanside Explorers program is run through the Police De-

**“If it wasn’t for Explorers, officers or someone else would be doing it for us.”**

Lt. Leonard Cosby  
Oceanside Police  
Department

partment that teams up with an accredited school to instruct 15 to 20 year olds in law enforcement skills.

Explorers meet monthly, and volunteer

year round to serve the community. Opportunities range from police ride-alongs, to event crowd control, and field evidence technician training.

"We're engage with young people all the time, this hits closer to home for us," Cosby said. "We see it as an investment in the life of a young person."

The program gives Explorers an understanding of police operations, and allows them to reap the rewards of serving the community.

During July 4, crowd control operations Explorers helped transport police officers to their patrol sites.

"If it wasn't for Explorers, officers or someone else would be doing it for us," Cosby said. "It freed up a lot of hands."

Many Explorers go on to work in law enforcement.

**SMALL TALK**

CONTINUED FROM B1

one should wear and me getting us to the airport on time. I may break out in hives before we even land.

Once there, I will need to wrangle friends and family members to be in the right spots at the right time. And that's another thing. I didn't think anyone I knew/invited would actually make the trek to Philly. I underestimated my loving friends who have already blocked out the weekend.

Lest this event be the most fuss 2015 would hold for me, my daughter then announced that she, too, wanted to set a date. My daughter's fiancé proposed two years ago, with a long-time engagement in mind — to get financially settled. Everything was happily on hold until my son proposed to his girl and set their date. You just

never know when sibling rivalry will rear its annoying head.

Hopefully, I can wear whatever frock I choose to both events. But that requires choosing a frock, which I am stalling on. Yes, I know, and remind myself regularly that no one is going to be looking at me.

But at some point, I will be making a first impression on a yet-unseen flock on new in-laws. Yep, here come the hives.

If anyone would like to volunteer to be my personal shopper, hair stylist and make-up artist, I might just fly you to Philly. Maybe I can draft my future daughter-in-law to shop with me at Christmas.

Meanwhile, my girl-child has filled my computer with a zillion Pinterest items and has me searching for the perfect venue. At least she will be local, but unlike her brother, she has cho-

sen a theme. She wants an enchanted forest ... in San Diego, where there are only beaches. Of course.

And in case I didn't feel like I had enough to do, she wants her reception in our roomy but currently ratty backyard.

She is artistic and wants to make all the decorations and set it all up. I am tired and want it to set itself up. Guess who wins?

There is much joy in anticipating both events and I will hopefully be able to gird my loins and screw my courage to the sticking place sometime in the next six months, or maybe the week before each event.

I do my best work on deadline.

*Jean Gillette is a freelance writer smiling but breathing into a paper bag. Contact her at jgillette@coastnews-group.com.*

**TASTE OF WINE**

CONTINUED FROM B10

his creations.

Both presentations were triumphs.

Chef's Rack of Lamb and Roasted Venison wowed the assembled, and Poggi's Barolo cru Corda della Bricolina 2007 matched up to perfection.

The local Harry's is a close relative of the world famous bar in Venice, Italy and radiates Bon Appetito! Visit at harryslajolla.com.

**WINE BYTES**

**Wiens Family Cellars** in Temecula has its Summerfest Backyard BBQ July 18; entertainment at 7 p.m., and doors open at 6 p.m. Try wines or brews, both from Wiens. Price is \$35 for a full menu plus. Phone (888) 98-WIENS

**Cohn Restaurant Group and Vintana Restaurant** in Escondido has the leading Mexican-American vintners of Napa Valley in a "walk-



The newest winery in Fallbrook, just off Interstate 15, is Estate D' lacobelli, with its traditional tasting room, shown above. Photo by Frank Mangio

about" wine tasting from 6 to 8 p.m. July 19. Eight leading winemakers will be accompanied by seasoned Vintana sommelier Maurice DiMarino. Tickets are \$25. Call (760) 745-7777 or dinevintana.com.

**Frank Family Vineyards** of Napa Valley will lead a special wine dinner at West Steak and Seafood in Carlsbad July 22 at 6:30 p.m. Chef Eugenio Martig-

nago has created an exciting six-course menu to pair with these fabled wines. Cost is \$130. Call (760) 930-9100 for an RSVP.

*Frank Mangio is a renowned wine connoisseur certified by Wine Spectator. He is one of the leading wine commentators on the web. View and link up with his column at tasteofwinetv.com. Reach him at mangiompc@aol.com.*



**CHICKENS ON PARADE**

Featuring pieces like this painted chicken by Julie Vee, the San Marcos Chickens on Parade ongoing art show, scavenger hunt and photo contest continues through Sept. 30. Visit San-MarcosArtsCouncil.com to download your scavenger hunt, map and contest rules. Courtesy photo

**Animal care organizations merge**

**REGION** — On July 1, the San Diego Humane Society and SPCA and the Escondido Humane Society officially merged into a single organization, working for a more humane San Diego County. The name of the combined organization will be the San Diego Humane Society and SPCA, with Gary Weitzman continuing as the president and CEO.

"We have been eagerly anticipating this day because we know how combining resources will save more of the most vulnerable animals in our community," said Weitzman. "Our organizations have been working together to save homeless pets in San Diego County for quite some time but now we can make an even greater impact together."

"This merger enables us to increase both efficiency and effectiveness, which translates into more animals being saved," said Sally Costello, executive director of Escondido Humane Society. Costello officially begins her new role at San Diego Humane Society as vice president of Strategic Initiatives. However, she will spend the next six months devoted to transitioning the two organizations through implementation of integrated practices.

The shelter location in Escondido will operate as the "San Diego Humane Society,

Escondido Campus," joining the San Diego Humane Society's existing San Diego and Oceanside Campuses. The benefits of the merger are many, including:

- More treatable animals' lives will be saved
- Additional resources to advance animal welfare services
- Increased services for individual pet owners when they are faced with the challenges and difficulties of separating from a beloved pet

Weitzman said, "We've been saving all healthy and treatable animals for several years. Now our focus is on assisting other local animal shelters reduce the number of animals euthanized for medical and behavior reasons in San Diego County. With special veterinary care, time in a foster home, rehabilitation programs and training, these animals can now be saved."

As organization leadership work collectively to expand programs and services, the current program offerings and community service at both organizations will continue uninterrupted. For more information, visit sdhumane.org.

**CRAFT BEER**

CONTINUED FROM B1

rooms, which she clarifies, are different from bars.

The city changed ordinances so that the breweries could have retail spaces in industrial zones, which opened the door for tasting rooms.

The tasting rooms have changed the face of downtown Vista according to Love. "It wasn't a safe area to be in," Love said. "You didn't feel safe to be here with your kids. We took a risk and it's changed downtown."

He estimates that hundreds of people come to Vista on Fridays and Satur-

days for the breweries.

Ham believes the tasting rooms are not only beneficial for the tourism, but also for existing businesses.

They give companies another place to socialize after work, where employees can discuss work over a cold one.

The higher price point means people are less likely to over-imbibe and it brings in customers with higher disposable income, said Ham.

The breweries are located in industrial zones, so there are no restaurants for the tasting rooms to compete with.

However, there is also

a lack of food available for tipsy patrons.

After the guild voiced their concerns with the city, officials changed ordinances to allow food trucks in business parks to serve food longer than 30 minutes. They're now allowed to operate as long as the tasting rooms are open.

The large amount of craft beer makers brings more awareness to the industry, said Davidson, and that helps the beer community grow as a whole.

"There's never going to be a shortage of great beer to drink and there's never going to be a shortage of people who want to drink great beer."